In the Claims

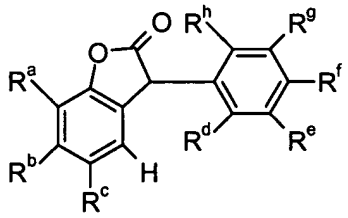
1. (currently amended) A ~~high-molecular-weight~~**[[,]]**crosslinked polyvinyl butyral obtain~~edable by crosslinking a polyvinyl butyral with~~ by a process which comprises

adding at least one crosslinking reagent selected from the group consisting of benzofuranone and~~/or with at least one~~ the benzofuranone derivatives, ~~of the same as crosslinking reagent~~ to a polyvinyl butyral and

crosslinking the polyvinyl butyral thermally at temperatures in the range from 80 to 280°C,

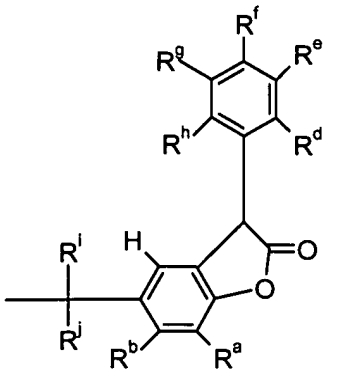
wherein the crosslinked polyvinyl butyral exhibits an increased molecular weight .

2. (currently amended) The polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim **1**, wherein the crosslinking reagents ~~used comprises compounds~~ are of the formula (I)



(I)

wherein R^a, R^b, R^d, R^e, R^f, R^g,and R^h independently of one another are hydrogen, hydroxy, C_1-C_{18}-alkyl, unsubstituted or C_1-C_4-alkyl-mono-, -di-, or –trisubstituted phenyl, C_7-C_9-phenylalkyl, unsubstituted or C_1-C_4-alkyl-mono-, -di-, or –trisubstituted C_5-C_{12}-cycloalkyl, or C_1-C_{18}-alkoxy, and R^c is as defined above for R^a, R^b, R^d, R^e, R^f, R^g and R^h or is a radical of the formula (II)



(II)

where R^a, R^b, R^d, R^e, R^f, R^g and R^h are as defined above and R^i and R^j independently of one another are hydrogen or C_1-C_4-alkyl, at least two of the radicals R^d, R^e, R^f, R^g and R^h being hydrogen.

3. (currently amended) The polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim ~~1 or~~ **2**, wherein the crosslinking reagents ~~used comprise compounds~~ are of the formula (I), where

R^b is hydrogen, and/or

R^d – R^h are hydrogen, and/or

R^a and R^c are C_1-C_{18}-alkyl, ~~in particular tert-butyl~~**[[,]]**or unsubstituted or

C_1-C_4-alkyl-mono-, -di-, or –trisubstituted phenyl.

4. (currently amended) The polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim ~~1~~**[[,]]2[[,]]**~~or 3~~**[[,]]** wherein the crosslinking reagents ~~used comprise compounds~~ are of the formula (I)**[[,]]** where R^c is a radical of the formula (II) and R^i and R^j are methyl.

5. (currently amended) The polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim **1**~~at least one of the preceding claims~~**[[,]]** which comprises plasticizers.

6. (currently amended) A process for preparing a crosslinked polyvinyl butyral ~~as claimed in at least one of the preceding claims~~, which process comprises

adding ~~the~~ at least one crosslinking reagent selected from the group consisting of benzofuranone and the benzofuranone derivatives, and also, where appropriate, ~~the~~a plasticizer to a~~the~~ polyvinyl butyral,

where appropriate homogenizing the mixture and

crosslinking the polyvinyl butyral thermally at temperatures in the range from 80 to 280°C,

wherein the crosslinked polyvinyl butyral exhibits an increased molecular weight.

7. (original) The process as claimed in claim **6**, wherein the crosslinking is catalyzed by addition of alkaline or acidic additives.

8. (currently amended) The process as claimed in claim ~~6 or 7~~, wherein the thermal crosslinking is carried out in an extruder.

9. (currently amended) A molding composition comprising the crosslinked polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim **1**~~at least one of claims 1 to 5~~.

10. (currently amended) A film comprising the crosslinked polyvinyl butyral as claimed in claim **1**~~at least one of claims 1 to 5~~.

11. (currently amended) ~~The use of the film as claimed in claim 10 for producing~~A laminated safety glass comprising a film according to claim **10**.

12. (new) The process as claimed in claim **7**, wherein the thermal crosslinking is carried out in an extruder.